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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 22, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 13 totaled 18.2 billion ton-miles, up 2.5 percent from the 17.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first six weeks of 1988 was an estimated 109.7 billion ton-miles carried, up 5.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended February 13 totaled 403,864, up 1.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 0.9 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 4.8 percent in the West, but down 1.0 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 10 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Grain loadings were up by 5,715 cars (21.4 percent), metals and products showed a gain of 1,400 cars (15.5 percent) and coke increased by 1,351 cars (31.8 percent). Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment showed a decrease of 2,622 cars (11.8 percent). Twelve of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended February 6 totaled 106,812 trailers and/or containers, up 8.4 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first five weeks of the year was 502,342 trailers and/or containers, up 6.4 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/13/88:

	Loadings in Week ended February 13, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,415	I	5,715	21.4	D	1,051	3.1
Other farm products	3,988	I	583	17.1	D	109	2.7
Metallic ores	11,065	D	1,281	10.4	D	1,232	10.1
Coal	113,207	I	880	0.8	D	339	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,703	D	1,064	9.0	D	652	5.7
Nonmetallic minerals	10,097	I	1,312	14.9	I	181	1.8
Grain mill products	10,823	D	767	6.6	I	99	0.9
Food and kindred products	11,106	D	403	3.5	D	202	1.8
Primary forest products	10,650	D	628	5.6	I	275	2.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,852	D	323	4.0	I	290	3.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,313	D	860	6.5	D	174	1.4
Chemicals and allied products	28,440	I	1,033	3.8	I	1,047	3.8
Petroleum products	5,092	I	417	8.9	I	262	5.4
Stone, clay and glass products	9,136	D	658	6.7	D	132	1.4
Coke	5,594	I	1,351	31.8	D	175	3.0
Metals and products	10,416	I	1,400	15.5	D	231	2.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,640	D	2,622	11.8	I	202	1.0
Waste and scrap materials	9,479	I	549	6.1	I	130	1.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,505	D	243	8.8	D	57	2.2
All other carloads	79,343	I	2,451	3.2	D	1,625	2.0
Total Cars Loaded	403,864	I	6,842	1.7	D	3,493	0.9
Corresponding week of 1987	397,022						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (6 weeks)	2,428,412	2,304,905	I 5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
5 weeks ended February 6	91.5	86.0	I 6.4
Week ended February 13	18.2	17.7	I 2.5
6 Weeks cumulative	109.7	103.7	I 5.7

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